

Newsletter of White Oak Veterinary Clinic, PC

Topic of the Month Calf Dehydration

Dehydration is a big cause of mortality among calves, and while it is typically something we tend to worry about in the summertime, it occurs year-round, especially in calves that are scouring. Calves also lose fluid through the moisture in their breath, which you can see when the temperatures drop.

When we assess dehydration in calves, we typically try to assign a percentage of dehydration based on how much their eyes are recessed and how much skin tenting they display.

We try to distinguish between calves that are mildly to moderately dehydrated (<8%), more severely dehydrated (10-12%), and dehydration incompatible with life (>12%). This allows us to make better treatment decisions. Calves with even moderate dehydration can typically be treated with oral fluids, provided they are alert and unlikely to aspirate. Oral fluids provide the benefit of encouraging the digestive tract to continue working. Furthermore, calves have a higher percentage of their body weight as water than do adult cattle, so we don't want to be overly aggressive with fluids.

There are lots of good oral electrolyte solutions available. Similar to IV fluid treatment, they are also designed to treat the low blood sugar and acidosis that often accompany dehydration. Most are meant to be given between milk feedings.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of February 28, 2021

Corn	\$5.55/bu
Soybean Meal	\$423.20/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$16.22/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$113.10/cwt

Practice News

- Zoetis is running a rebate program on purchases of Draxxin. The program is retroactive to 1/1/2021 and extends until 12/31/2021. Producers can earn a rebate of \$50 on 50mL size and \$100 on 100mL size bottles of Draxxin. Call the office for details on the program.
- We have upgraded our credit card processing software. With the new system, we have the ability to complete credit card payment transactions on-farm for anyone who is interested.

Upcoming Opportunity

- AgDiscovery 2021 is accepting applications through March 25. This is a national summer program designed to introduce students in grades 7-12 to career paths available in agricultural sciences and also to business management within agriculture. The program includes classes, workshops, facility visits, and interaction with USDA personnel, among other things. For more information, or to apply, visit the website at: www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery.

In the News

- According to Yahoo entertainment, a group called Dairy Farmers of Canada has put forth a request to farmers to stop using palm oil supplements in dairy cow feed. This came after complaints from bakers that their butter has become harder. It has been blamed on palm oil, which can be used to increase milk fat, although there is no research to prove this. Though nothing illegal has been done and milk produced in Canada is still subject to rigorous health and safety standards, this issue has been referred to as "Buttergate".